

REMARKS

Claims 7 and 9-12 are pending in the application, claims 1-6 and 8 being canceled herein.

Claim 7 is the only independent claim.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,223,769 to Bragg et al.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 8-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claim 7 herein to incorporate the limitations of claim 8, which has been canceled. Dependent claims 9-12 have been amended to conform to the cancellation of claim 8.

Inasmuch as amended independent claim 7 corresponds to claim 8 rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, amended claim 7 is allowable, as per the indication made by the Examiner. An early Notice passing the application to issue is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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